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Message Text

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53
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SYE-00 USSS-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 /070 W
---------- 106100
O 301510Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4327

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: MURDER BENDIX EXECUTIVES BY TERRORISTS, JANUARY 29, 1976

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE SUBSTANCE OF A REPORT FURNISHED TO ME BY RSO GEORGE S. BECKETT BASED ON HIS VISITATION TO THE BENDIX PLANT AND INTERVIEW OF MR. HORATIO O. PARADA, MANAGER, FINANCIAL SECTION.

A. PARADA ARRIVED AT THE PLANT AT 0930 HOURS THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1976. UPON ENTERING THE PLANT HE NOTICED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A DEAD BODY LYING ON THE SIDEWALK NEAR THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND A CROWD OF PEOPLE AROUND THE OFFICE. HE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT THE BODY ON THE SIDEWALK WAS THAT OF A PROVINCIAL POLICEMAN WHO HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE TERRORISTS WHILE HE WAS ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE WITH THEIR ACTIVITIES. PARADA WAS TOLD BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE STAFF THAT 13 MEN AND TWO WOMEN HAD ENTERED THE PLANT. THEY USED A PICK UP TRUCK AND TWO SEDANS AND IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES AS POLICEMEN. THE TERRORISTS BROKE INTO FOUR UNITS WITH THREE OF THE UNITS OVERING THE MAIN GATE, SECONDARY GATE AND OUTSIDE OFFICE AREA. THE FOURTH GROUP, TWO MEN, APPARENTLY HAD BEEN ASSIGNED THE ASSASSINATION
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TASK. THEY ASKED FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER,

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PROCEEDED TO HIS OFFICE AND ASKED FOR HIM BY NAME. HIS SECRETARY INFOMED THE TWO MEN THAT THE GENERAL MANAGER WAS OUT OF TOWN. SHE WAS REQUESTED TO LEAVE THE OFFICE AND A SMALL BOMB WAS PLACED INSIDE. THE BOMB DESTROYED THE INTERIOR OF THE GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE. THEY PROGRESSED TO THE OFFICE OF THE PERSONNEL MANAGER IDENTIFYING HIM BY NAME AND SHOT HIM WHILE HE SAT BEHIND HIS DESK. NEXT THEY WENT TO THE OFFICE OF THE MANAGER FOR INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND SHOT HIM WHILE HE WAS SITTING BEHIND THE DESK. THE GROUP THEN DEPARTED THE PLANT. AT THE ONSET OF THE INCIDENT THE TERRORIST GROUP CUT ALL TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS TO THE PLANT. PARADA WAS ADVISED THAT THE TERRORISTS SEEMED SURPRISED THAT THE GENERAL MANAGER WAS NOT AT THE PLANT. TERRORIST DISCUSSION INDICATED THAT THEY THOUGHT THE GENERAL MANAGER WOULD BE MAKING A TRIP BUT WOULD NOT DEPART UNTIL JANUARY 30. NO TERRORISTS WERE KILLED DURING THE INCIDENT. THE COMPANY DOES NOT HAVE A SECURITY GUARD FORCE BUT ONLY PROVIDES A GROUP OF PORTEROS WHOSE MAJOR SECURITY FUNCTION IS THE SEARCHING OF WORKERS TO PROTECT THE PLANT AGAINST PETTY LARCENY. NONE OF THE PORTEROS ARE ARMED. PARADA ADVISED THAT SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL AT THE PLANT THE PLANT WAS CLOSED AND ALL WORKERS WERE DISMISSED. HE STATED THAT A DECISION WOULD BE MADE BY THE GENERAL MANAGER ON JANUARY 30 CONCERNING WHETHER THE PLANT WOULD BE REOPENED. PARADA STATED THERE HAD BEEN NO LABOR PROBLEMS OR THREATS.

2. THE FOLLOWING WAS OBSERVED DURING THE VISITATION TO THE PLANT:

A. THERE WERE NO WORKERS PRESENT.

B. THERE WERE NO SUPERVISORS AT THE PLANT.

C. NO ONE WAS PRESENT AT THE PLANT WHO COULD FURNISH INFORMATION CONCERNING THE TERRORIST INCIDENT.

D. ALL TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS HAD BEEN DISRUPTED.

E. THE TERRORISTS USING SPRAY CAN PAINT HAD WRITTEN ON

THE OUTSIDE WALL OF THE OFFICES A MONTONERO SLOGAN.

3. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MESSAGE WAS FURNISHED TO MR. STANLEY CLEVELAND PRESIDENT, BENDIX INTERNATIONAL, AND MR. J. W. FIELDS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR PERSONNEL, BENDIX BY TELEPHONE ON JANUARY 29, AT 1945. INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED PER THEIR REQUEST TO ME.

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4. IT HAS BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE BENDIX CORPORATION VISITED THE SECURITY OFFICE OF THE
EMBASSY DURING THE PERIOD THAT RSO BECKETT WAS ON HOME LEAVE
AND RSO MCNULTY WAS IN CHARGE. NO MATERIAL CAN BE LOCATED IN
THE FILES REFLECTING THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BUENOS00633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760036-0092
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976016/aaaaaepv.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MURDER BENDIX EXECUTIVES BY TERRORISTS, JANUARY 29, 1976
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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